working for the welfare and rehabilitation of disabled as well as manpower development, research, etc.

5) Scheme for setting up Composite Regional Centres for providing composite rehabilitation services and Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) for persons with spinal injuries and other orthopedic disabilities.

6) Eleven District Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to the rural disabled. 4 RRTCs have also been set up for training and manpower development in their field of rehabilitation.

7) 133 districts in the country have been selected for setting up of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres of which 108 are functional.

8) Science and Technology Project in Mission Mode for developing appropriate and innovative technological appliances for the benefit of disabled persons.

9) National Trust for the Persons with Autism, Mental Retardation, Cerebral Palsy and Multiple Disabilities extends support to registered organisations to provide need based services during periods of crisis in the family of the persons with disability and also promotes measures for care and protection of these persons in the event of death of their parents or guardians.

10) A Scheme of National Scholarship for Persons with Disabilities was introduced from the year 2002-2003. Every year 250 awards each for male students and female students in different categories of disabilities will be given for pursuing higher and technical education.

Scheme for elderly people

1110. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme under Government's consideration to extend unemployment allowances, health care for elderly people and any other relief measures for the disabled and orphans;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the annual expenditure to be incurred; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) There is no scheme under consideration of Government to extend unemployment allowance for elderly people. However, many State Governments are providing unemployment allowance and disability pension to persons with disabilities.

Financial assistance is also given to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for running Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres and Mobile Medicare Units under the Integrated Programme for Older Persons. There is a provision of Rs. 18.79 crores for the year 2004-05 under this scheme.

Under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme, NGOs are supported in running special schools, vocational training programmes and other rehabilitation services for disabled persons. This year there is a provision of Rs. 80 crores under this Scheme.

Adoption of abandoned infants is facilitated through funding Shishu Grihs for which there is a budgetary provision of Rs. 2.65 crores this year.

Draft legislation for minorities

†1111. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission for Minorities proposes to present its draft to Government for a new legislation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Commission is of the view that it is the minorities which have mostly suffered in the communal riots that took place so far; and

(d) if so, by when the new legislation would be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has no proposal to present to the Government, a draft regarding new legislation to tackle

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.